

Application Serial No. 10/039,684
Amendment dated December 11, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 31, 2003

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (CANCEL)
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The process of claim 1~~ In a process for making a multiple-layer label, the steps of:
providing hold-down openings in a first web defining an upper label layer;
combining said first web with a second web, which second web defines a base label layer; and
applying an adhesive overlamine to said first web, said overlamine extending over and through said hold-down openings in said first web and securing said first and second webs together, wherein the second web is a composite of a base label material, adhesive and a liner, and including the further step of die-cutting said first web and overlamine into discrete upper labels on said second web.

3. (ORIGINAL) The process of claim 2 including in the die-cutting step, the step of forming edge portions of said upper labels along the edges defining portions of said hold-down openings in said first web, such that the die-cut overlamine extends over both leading and trailing edges of said die cut upper label in said first web.
4. (ORIGINAL) The process of claim 2 including the further step of removing a combined waste matrix of overlamine and first web, and leaving discrete upper labels on said second web.
5. (ORIGINAL) The process of claim 4 including the further step of die cutting said second web to form discrete base labels with discrete upper labels on the base labels.
6. (ORIGINAL) The process of claim 5 including the further step of removing a waste matrix of at least said second web to leave a series of base labels, each with a discrete upper label thereon, on said liner.

7. (ORIGINAL) The process of claim 2, wherein the die cutting step includes cutting an upper label shape, including a removal tab shape, in said overlamine and including a portion of otherwise waste matrix of said first web under a leading end of the tab-shape of said overlamine to define a multiple layer tab of said overlamine material of said first web.
8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The process of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2 including carrying out said steps in a single pass of the webs through a press.
9. (ORIGINAL) The process of claim 2 including the step of die cutting a plurality of discrete upper labels extending transversely on and across said second web.
10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The process of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2 including removing material cut out from the openings in said first web.

11. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED/ALLOWED) In a process of forming a multiple layer label, the steps of:

providing hold-down openings in a first web defining an upper layer label;

combining said first web with a second web, which second web defines a base label layer, and applying a hold-down tape to said first web in a disposition overlying said openings;

said hold-down tape securing said two webs together through said openings; and

die cutting said first web and said tape and removing a combined waste matrix of portions of said first web and said hold-down tape to leave discrete upper labels held by discrete hold-down tapes on said second web, wherein said hold-down tapes are narrower than the width of said discrete upper labels.

12. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED/ALLOWED) The process of claim 11, including the further step of applying an adhesive overlamine web onto said second web and over said discrete upper labels and hold-down tapes and onto said second web.

13. (ORIGINAL/ALLOWED) The process of claim 12 including the further step of die cutting said overlamine into shapes overlapping at least portions of said discrete upper labels.

14. (ORIGINAL/ALLOWED) The process of claim 13 including the further step of removing a waste matrix of overlamine from around said discrete upper labels.

15. (ORIGINAL/ALLOWED) The process of claim 14 wherein said second web includes a composite of base label layer, adhesive and liner, and includes the further step of die cutting said second web to define a series of base labels on said liner, each having an upper label thereon.

16. (ORIGINAL/ALLOWED) The process of claim 15 including the further step of removing a waste matrix of said second web to leave a series of base labels on said liner, each carrying an upper label covered by said overlamine.

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41. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) In a process for making labels, the steps of:

providing hold-down openings in a first web defining an upper label layer;

combining said first web with a second ~~carrier~~ web which is a composite of a base label material, adhesive and liner;

applying an adhesive overlamine to said first web, said overlamine extending over and through said hold-down openings in said first web and securing said first web to said ~~[[web]]~~ second carrier web.

42. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The process of claim 41, including the further step of die cutting at least said overlamine and removing a waste matrix of overlamine to produce a series of discrete upper labels held on said ~~carrier~~ second web by remaining portions of said overlamine.

43. (ORIGINAL) The process of claim 42, including the step of die cutting said overlamine at a leading edge of said upper label so that it is coextensive therewith.

44. (CANCELLED)

45. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) In a process of making multiple layer labels, the steps of:

providing a series of transversely extending hold-down openings across and in a first web defining an upper label layer;

providing a series of longitudinally extending hold-down openings in said first web;

said two respective series alternating in disposition on said web;

combining said first web with a second web which is a composite of a base label material adhesive and liner defining in part a base label layer;

applying an adhesive overlamine on said first web, said overlamine extending over said hold-down holes and securing said two webs together through said holes;

cutting a series of upper label shapes in said overlamine with at least two upper labels being disposed side-by-side transversely across said second web.

46. (ORIGINAL) A process as in claim 45 including the further step of defining tabs in said upper labels with tabs of labels which are substantially defined between said transversely extending hold-down openings being located on a leading edge of such labels and tabs of labels which are substantially defined between longitudinally-extending hold-

down openings being located on longitudinal side edges of such labels.

47. (ORIGINAL) A process as in claim 46 including stripping from said structure a waste matrix, leaving a plurality of discrete upper labels on said second web, said overlamine overlapping at least two respective parallel edges of each upper label layer.

48. (ORIGINAL) A process as in claim 47 wherein the tab defining steps includes cutting a tab-shaped portion of said first web under a portion of said overlamine, forming each tab such that each tab comprises an overlamine adhered to a tab portion of said first web to facilitate tab lifting and label removal.

49. (ORIGINAL) The process of claim 47 wherein said second web comprises a base label layer adhered to a liner, and further including the step of die cutting said base label layer of said second web and stripping therefrom a waste matrix of said base label layer to leave a series of base labels on said liner with each base label carrying a plurality of upper labels thereon.

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59. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The process of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2 wherein the first and second webs are combined before the adhesive overlamine is applied to said first web.

60. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The process of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2 wherein the overlamine is applied to said first web before the first and second webs are combined.

61. (ORIGINAL/ADDED BY PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT) The process of claim 7 including forming the tabs extending from a portion of the upper labels other than a leading edge thereof.

62. (ORIGINAL/ADDED BY PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT) The process of claim 7 including forming said tabs of both overlamine and a portion of otherwise waste matrix such that said tabs are secured to upper labels by overlamine material disposed between said upper label and said tab.

63. (ORIGINAL/ADDED BY PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT/ALLOWED) The process of claim 11 wherein the first and second webs are combined before said tape is applied to said first web.

64. (ORIGINAL/ADDED BY PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT/ALLOWED) The process of claim 11 wherein said tape is applied to said first web before said first web is combined with said second web.

65. (ORIGINAL/ADDED BY PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT) A process as in claim 41 wherein said overlamine is applied to said first web before said first and second webs are combined.

66. (ORIGINAL/ADDED BY PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT) A process as in claim 41 wherein said first and second webs are combined before said overlamine is applied to said first web.

67. (ORIGINAL/ADDED BY PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT) A process as in claim 42 including the further step of forming tabs extending respectively from and edge of said upper labels.

68. (ORIGINAL/ADDED BY PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT) A process as in claim 67 wherein said tab is formed with one portion comprising only overlamine and a second portion comprising both overlamine and a reinforcing layer.

69. (ORIGINAL/ADDED BY PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT) A process as in claim 45 wherein said overlamine is applied to said first web before said first and second webs are combined.

70. (ORIGINAL/ADDED BY PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT) A process as in claim 45 wherein said first and second webs are combined before said overlamine is applied to said

first web.

71. (ORIGINAL/ADDED BY PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT) A process as in claim 48 wherein said tabs are formed with a reinforced portion and a portion consisting of said overlamine, and wherein said tab is secured to said label by an overlamine portion extending between the label and the tab.

72. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) In a process for making a multiple-layer label, the steps of:

providing hold-down openings in a first upper label element;

combining said upper label element with a web element which web element is a composite of base label material, adhesive and an elongated liner and which defines in part a base label layer; and

applying an adhesive overlamine to said upper label element, said overlamine extending over and through said hold-down openings in said upper label element and securing said first upper label element and said ~~second~~ web[[s]] element together.

73. (ORIGINAL/ADDED BY PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT/ALLOWED) In a process of forming a multiple layer label, the steps of:

providing hold-down openings in an upper label element defining an upper layer label;

combining said upper label element with a second web which web defines a base label layer, and applying a hold-down tape to said upper label element in a disposition overlying said openings;

said hold-down tape securing said upper label element and said web together through said openings; and

die cutting said upper label element and said tape and removing a combined waste matrix of portions of said upper label element and said hold-down tape to leave discrete upper labels held by discrete hold-down tapes on said web, wherein said hold-down tapes are narrower than the width of said discrete upper labels.

74. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) In a process for making labels, the steps of:

providing hold-down openings in an upper label element defining an upper label layer;

combining said upper label element with a carrier web which is a composite of label material, adhesive and a liner;

applying an adhesive overlamine to said upper label element, said overlamine extending over and through said hold-down openings in said upper label element securing said upper label element to said carrier web.

75. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) In a process of making multiple layer labels, the steps of:
- providing a series of transversely extending hold-down openings across and in an upper label element defining an upper label layer;
 - providing a series of longitudinally extending hold-down openings in said upper label element;
 - said two respective series alternating in disposition on said element;
 - combining said upper label element with a web which is a composite of label material, adhesive and a liner and defining in part a base label layer;
 - applying an adhesive overlamine on said upper label element, said overlamine extending over said hold-down holes and securing said upper label element to said web through said holes;
 - cutting a series of upper label shapes in said overlamine with at least two upper labels being disposed side-by-side transversely across said web.